(d) The production of pulses has increased from 83.50 lakh tonnes in 1966-67 to 151.12 lakh tonnes in 2007-08.

(e) Government of India is implementing various schemes to encourage cultivation of pulses as given below:

1. Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in 14 major pulses growing State.

2. National Food Security Mission-Pulses launched in 2007-08 being implemented in 171 identified district of 14 major pulses growing States with objective to enhance production of pulses by 20.00 lakh tonnes by the 11th Five Year Plan.

3. Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme which provides assistance to the States not covered under ISOPOM.

4. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) under which States can undertake Pulse Development Programme.

New farming practice in Tamil Nadu

10. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new farming practice has been developed in Tamil Nadu to increase the productivity of land, water and other farm inputs in cultivation of Rice Crops;

(b) if so, has this practice incorporated some innovative features over the conventional way of flooded rice cultivation; and

(c) whether the existing problems like water-scarcity, high energy usage and environmental degradation would adequately be taken care of and thus crop yield is substantially increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) technique has received considerable attention globally including Tamil Nadu due to its potential for yield improvement and water saving. The main features of this system include transplanting of young seedlings singly in a square pattern with wide spacing; using more of organic fertilizers; and keeping the paddy soil moist with intermittent drying and wetting during the vegetative growth phase. SRI causes better plant growth and development and economizes upon the use of seed, irrigation water, labour, plant protection chemicals and fertilizers and hence increases the productivity of land, water capital and labour significantly over conventional flooded rice cultivation.

Subsidies to agriculture sector

11. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various kind of subsidies being provided by Government to the agricultural sector;

(b) the amount allocated for this purpose during last three years and the current year; till-date, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has made any assessment regarding grant of subsidy to the farmers on the basis of the size of their land holding;